



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Northeastern Area  
State & Private  
Forestry

180 Canfield Street  
Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3400  
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Holliday Obrecht  
Patuxent Wildlife Research Center  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
12100 Beech Forest Road  
Laurel, MD 20708-4036

Dear Holly:

On September 16 and 17, 2003, USDA Forest Service personnel conducted a gypsy moth egg mass survey at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. The purpose of this survey was to evaluate the efficacy of the suppression project conducted this past Spring and to assess the potential for defoliation and the need for treatment in 2004.

The location of the survey plots are shown in Figure 1. In brief, no new egg masses were detected at any of the 64 plots. No gypsy moth caused defoliation was detected anywhere at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center during the aerial detection survey conducted on June 16 (see report dated July 16).

It was not expected that a suppression project using the biological insecticide Gypchek would provide 100 percent foliage protection from gypsy moth defoliation and a 100 percent gypsy moth population reduction. Based on results of previous suppression projects using Gypchek, foliage protection was expected on approximately 75 percent of the treatment area along with a gypsy moth population reduction in the 50-75 percent range. It is very likely that the results of this year's suppression project was aided by a natural decline of the gypsy moth in the area.

Since no noticeable defoliation is expected, treatment is not recommended in 2004 at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.

Please call me at (304) 285-1555 if you have any questions regarding the egg mass survey or this letter.

Sincerely,

RODNEY L. WHITEMAN  
Forester  
Forest Health Protection

Cc: Allen Carter, Regional Forester, USDI F&WS  
Robert Tichenor, MDA  
Sally Hughes, MDA  
Noel Schneeberger, AO



Figure 1.--Gypsy moth egg mass survey plot locations at Patuxent Research Refuge, September 2003.

